

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 239466

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 239466

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 239466 ACTION USUN NEW YORK DATED

31 OCT 74

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 239466

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AFIN, AORG, UN

SUBJECT: UNEF/UNDOF FINANCING

REF.: A. USUN 4266 B. USUN 3921

1. WITH REGRET, WE ACCEPT US DEL'S CONCLUSION THAT TROOP CONTRIBUTORS CANNOT BE MOVED FROM THEIR AGREED REIMBURSEMENT FORMULA (DOLS 500 PER MAN PER MONTH, PLUS ADDITIONAL DOLS 150 FOR TECHNICIANS). MOREOVER, WE RECOGNIZE THAT TROOP CONTRIBUTORS WILL HAVE AMPLE VOTES IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ADOPT THIS FORMULA AND NOTE US DEL'S CONCERN THAT U.S. OPPOSITION TO FORMULA LIKELY TO INCREASE OUR DIFFICULTIES IN MAINTAINING CURRENT ASSESSMENT SCALE. U.S. OPPOSITION TO FORMULA APPARENTLY WOULD NOT BE UNDERSTOOD BY CANADA, WHOSE COSTS WOULD NOT EVEN BE COVERED BY PROPOSED REIMBURSEMENT (USUN 3921) AND WHOSE SUPPORT COULD BE USEFUL AS IT WAS LAST YEAR IN MAINTAINING ACCEPTABLE ASSESSMENT SCALE.

2. ON OTHER HAND WE CONTINUE TO SEE DANGERS TO UN PEACE-KEEPING EFFORTS OF SITUATION WHERE LOW COST TROOP CONTRI-
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PAGE 02 STATE 239466

BUTORS STAND TO GAIN WINDFALLS FROM REIMBURSEMENTS.

(OUR CONCERN IS SOMEWHAT MITIGATED BY REALIZATION THAT INFLATION WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO ERODE REAL VALUE OF REIMBURSEMENT PAYMENTS AND, IF PAST PRACTICE IS FOLLOWED, PAYMENTS BY UN WILL BE SLOW AND INCOMPLETE.) ANOTHER UNDESIRABLE ASPECT OF A HIGH REIMBURSEMENT FORMULA COULD

BE ITS EFFECT ON SOVIETS WHO WOULD BE INCREASINGLY LIKELY TO WITHHOLD SOME (OR CONCEIVABLY ALL) OF THEIR ASSESSED CONTRIBUTION AS TOTAL UNEF/UNDOF COSTS GO UP. OF COURSE, SOVIETS MAY WITHHOLD IN ANY CASE AND WE BELIEVE MAJOR DETERMINANT OF THEIR POSITION WILL BE POLITICAL, NOT FINANCIAL.

3. OBVIOUSLY OUR OVERRIDING PRESENT PRIORITY IS THE CONTINUATION OF AN EFFECTIVE PEACEKEEPING FORCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THIS PRIORITY LIMITS OUR BARGAINING POWER ON ISSUES OF LESSER CONCERN. HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE WE HAVE CONSIDERABLE NUISANCE POTENTIAL ON TROOP REIMBURSEMENT FORMULA, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE SOVIETS HAVE ALREADY BEEN SO TROUBLESOME ON THIS ISSUE. THIS POTENTIAL OF OURS MAY BE SUFFICIENT TO CAUSE TROOP CONTRIBUTORS TO AGREE TO PURCHASE OUR ACQUIESCENCE IN FORMULA IN RETURN FOR THEIR ACTIVE SUPPORT IN EXTENDING PRESENT ASSESSMENT SCALE. ACCORDINGLY, U.S. DEL SHOULD MAKE STRONG EFFORT TO OBTAIN FIRM PLEDGE OF SUCH ACTIVE SUPPORT (E.G., AGREEMENT TO COSPONSOR FINANCING RESOLUTION) PRIOR TO U.S. ACCEPTANCE OF REIMBURSEMENT FORMULA. INGERSOLL
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